

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene F. Kennedy (Late Arrival), Council President Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr. (Late Arrival), Councilmember Elenora Simms (Excused), Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator & City Treasurer, Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Higgs

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**1.1.5. Approval of April Meeting Minutes**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Tuesday, October 2, 2012. The motion carried.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Monday, October 8, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Public Session meeting minutes for

Monday, October 8, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS:**

### **2.1. Swearing-In of Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police**

- Mayor Grant requested that Chief Cotillo and his family join him in front of the Dais.
- He read and the Chief repeated the oath.

## **3. LEGISLATION**

**3.1. Resolution R-13-09 Declaration of Municipal Government Works Month** was introduced by the City Council on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson approve Resolution R-13-09. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson and Yeargin

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

**3.2. Resolution R-13-10 To Approve the Day after Thanksgiving as an Employee Appreciation Day** was introduced by the City Council on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson and Yeargin

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

**3.3. Ordinance O-13-04 Special Event Policy and Application.** Ordinance O-13-04 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, October 8, 2012 and the first reading was concluded. The second reading was on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson and Yeargin

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

It was motion by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve Ordinance O-13-04. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson and Yeargin

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

**3.4. Ordinance O-13-05 FY2012-2013 Budget Amendment for Chief of Police Salary Upgrade.** Ordinance O-13-05 was introduced by the City Council

on Monday, November 5, 2012 the first reading was concluded. The second reading was concluded on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Ordinance O-13-05. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson and Yeargin

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

**3.5. Ordinance O-13-06 Amendment of Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual** was introduced by the City Council on Monday, November 5, 2012 and the first reading was concluded. The second reading was concluded on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Ordinance O-13-06. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson and Yeargin

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant stated that they need to appoint a Special Committee to deal with issues as it relates to Veterans in the City.
- He stated the Legislative Breakfast will be on Thursday, December 13, 2012
- He stated that during the At-Large Council meeting, citizens had requested an Emergency Preparedness Training.
- He stated that we will be having City Wide Emergency Preparedness training on Saturday, December 15, 2012. The location is to be determined.
- He stated the G.S. Proctor and Associates presented a proposal to the City Council on Monday, November 5, 2012. He is requesting that the Council approve the service contract for a lobbyist.
- He stated that they secured a bond bill for the City three years ago under the services of G.S. Proctor and Associates and last year the bond bill request was not approved.

##### **4.2. Kelly Porter, Council President Report:**

- Council President Porter stated that his report is on the information stand

##### **4.3 Kevin Brenner, Chief-Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department**

- Chief Brenner was absent from the Public Session and no report was submitted.

##### **4.4. Acting City Administrator – Robert L. Ashton**

- Mr. Ashton stated Economic Development Review panel set a second meeting for November 19, 2012. They will be narrowing down five candidates to interview. The City Attorney recommended Mr. King, Economic Development Coordinator for Bowie.
- Carrington Avenue property concern-They forwarded the request to the County

#### **4.5. Finance Department- Robert Ashton, Treasurer**

- Mr. Ashton stated that the financial report from July 1 to October 31, 2012 with a cover letter identifying several areas to look at going forward. It is a separate sheet in the back of the financial report detailing charges spent on the City Center project.
- He stated that the assessment notices will be forthcoming at the end of the year. He requested that the residents come as soon as they receive the notices and not wait until April.

#### **4.6. Police Department – Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police**

- Mr. Cotillo stated that Ms. Posey provided detailed information at the Veteran's Day ceremony.
- The Police Department had 8 arrests in the month of October and wrote 52 citations.
- They will be preparing a document to break down the crimes in the City and in the County. He stated that based on the numbers you will see how well the department is doing.
- The City sits in the middle of a hot spot. He hopes to provide a revise report next month.
- He stated that he will have an officer go out to do a home security and business survey.
- The department had a business meeting in the City and they discussed crime and how to identify a suspect.
- They informed them that we have a Citizen Advisory Council and it was recommended that they start a business advisory council and no one raised their hand.
- He gathered contact information and he will be sending e-mails providing them with crime information.
- Councilwoman Stephenson asked Chief Cotillo if there was a discussion with the business to install the no solicitation signs in the window.

- The law does not state a person cannot have a conversation outside of a business. They have recommended that the business get the no solicitation signs.
- The police will be riding around with the car lights on while traveling in the City.
- The cars are waiting on parts and they are expecting them in two weeks.
- The plans for the current fleet will be used for stand by cars. A few of the cars are in real bad shape. They would like to keep a car for decoy purposes and there are several things they can do with them. He will meet with Mr. Ashton to discuss the options.

**4.7. Public Works Department- Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works**

- Mr. Thompson welcome the Chief to the City of Seat Pleasant
- He thanked the City Council for the consideration for the day after Thanksgiving, as an employee appreciation day.
- He stated that Hurricane Sandy was a day City Hall was shut down. He stated that the Police Department, Fire Department and the Public Work Department were present and they came together and monitored the City. They were able to jump ahead and move man holes, branches, etc.
- Leaf season is present and they need the residents help by bagging their leaves so that Bates can pick them up on Wednesday. Please put the leaves out on Tuesday night.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know if the street sweeping was over in the month of October. Mr. Thompson stated that they use the street sweeper to clean the curbs.
- It was requested by two citizens to put the information out in the city regarding the leaf bagging and street sweeping.
- Councilman Porter stated that we attempt to get the information out to the residents. We will try to find out how most citizens get their information.

**5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

- Mrs. Angela Scott, Birchleaf Ave, Seat Pleasant, MD-She stated she attended the Veteran's Day program yesterday and she was moved by Ms. Posey. She stated that the veteran's day became true to her when she saw the veteran's with their many ailments because they fought for her. She stated that she we all have that freedom and she thanked the officer who served in the military. She stated that she served as an election judge and they were over flooded with voters. She stated that she is thankful to be an American. She thanked the men and women who made the ultimate

sacrifice to serve their country.

- She stated that she would like to see the City flood out mailboxes to see the citizens come back out to the meetings. She was utterly surprised that no one volunteered to participate with a partnership, but they expect us to protect them in their business while they make the money for their families.
- She implored the council for the activities that have in their wards. She stated two songs that were ringing in her spirit.
- Councilmember Kennedy stated that beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> of January they will put on the driver licenses that you are a Veteran.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that he took a leap of faith today and renewed his license and he signed up to be an organ donor.
- Mrs. Kennedy stated that she hears the City of Excellence and it is hard to see it, when people are standing around and sitting on top of the trash can in front of Best 1. Mr. Thompson stated that the request has been started five months ago. He stated that we are trying to change the Metro bus stop throughout the City. He stated that before her husband became a Councilmember he was on his case about it.
- It was requested that a bus seat not be installed on 71<sup>st</sup>, as it could be a problem for crime.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

6.1 None

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

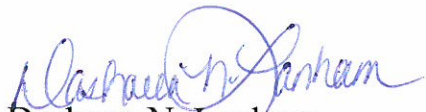
7.1. None

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 8.1. Regular Work Session, Monday, December 3, 2012, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.
- 8.2. Seat Pleasant 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislative Breakfast, Thursday, December 13, 2012, Seat Pleasant Activity Center-5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD from 7:00am-10:00am
- 8.3. City Website Demonstration for Citizens "How to Use the City Website", Thursday, December 20, 2012, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers from 1:00pm-2:00pm

## **9. ADJOURN-** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Submitted by,

  
Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk

APPROVED 12/10/12